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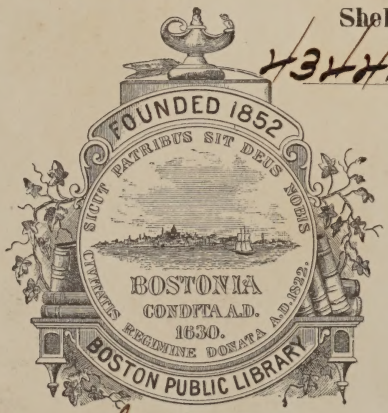

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SAMUEL SKELTON,

THE FIRST MINISTER OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in Boston, on Thursday, March 14, 1895, Dr. Samuel A. Green, in communicating copies of the following manuscripts, said: —

These papers are found among the Suffolk Court files, which at a former meeting of this Society I mentioned as containing a large collection of miscellaneous manuscripts on a great variety of subjects. (See Proceedings, 2d series, IX. 97.) The numbers given within brackets at the end of each paper correspond with those used in the order of their arrangement in the files.

The first letter relates to Samuel Skelton, the earliest minister of Salem. He was chosen pastor of the First Church at the same time that Francis Higginson was elected teacher. On account of his greater age he was called to the higher office, but he lived only a few years after coming to New England. He was a friend of Governor Endicott, and a stout defender of the independence of Congregational churches. Edward Johnson, in his "Wonder-Working Providence of Sions Saviour in New-England," speaks of this Puritan minister as "a man of a gratious Speech, full of Faith and furnished by the Lord with gifts from above" (p. 22). Mr. Skelton died at Salem, on August 2, 1634; and presumably the letter was written within a year or two after that date. I have been unable to identify Alice Daniell, the writer; but Mr. Savage, in his Genealogical Dictionary, says that she had a grant of land at Salem in 1637, giving the Rev. Joseph B. Felt as his authority.

Before he left England a contract was made between Mr. Skelton and the Company of Massachusetts Bay, by which he was to receive a certain sum of money for clothes and other articles, besides many little items mentioned in detail in the Account which is here appended to the first paper. Mr. Felt, in his "Annals of Salem" (I. 511–513), prints a partial list of these articles. See a letter to Governor Endicott in "Suffolk Deeds" (I. i–xii), which gives some interesting particulars in regard to the Massachusetts Company.

The second letter was written probably a few years after the date of the first, — but has no connection with it, — though I am unable to give any facts concerning the writer. Perhaps she was the same person who is mentioned in the printed "Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay" (I. 273), September 9, 1639, under the name of "Bloros," though it is given in the margin as "Blowe^{r}s."

Deare and worthy

S^{r} my humble and due seruise rem mb^{r} to y^{r}selfe and y^{r} Deare yoakfellow together wth my constant requeste to the lord of wisedome and grace to pfect his worke in you and by you to the prayse of his owne grace :: I made bould som months since to p^{r}sent you^{r} wors^{p} wth a few lines touching the Cattell that m^{r} Skelton left wth mee: and since that time I haue Rec^{d} a letter from y^{r}selfe: and by direction [of] o^{r} beloued m^{r} Endicott from yr self [ ] haue taken a true coppy of those writings wch m^{r} Endecott prsented to you soe neere as possible to bee desiring rather to charge my selfe than to doe the least wrong in any kind; wch Coppy I haue here sent: as allso m^{r} Skelton's will: desireng to lay all things naked before you as the lye: now I beseech you worthy S^{r}: though I haue the [Ca]ttell in a compleate number: yet the charge of the keeping hath beene much to mee: as allso diuerse debts of m^{r} skeltons wherof som are payd and some are not: now this I know that since m^{r} skelton's death I am out of purse of my owne money laiyd for the cattell and the keeping of the house (as som freinds are also to Relate) the some of 25^{l} and better [ ]east 26^{l} besides all that I haue made of the milke wch I hope was [pu]t to the best advantadge: and as I haue intima[te]d the losse of the cattell in the accompt soe allso ther[e] remayneth since m^{r} sketons death but onely o[n]e Bull calf: and for the Cows there are but two that haue taken the season of breed: and one of [th]em will not com till the latter end of the somer many cattell were brought into the towne this yeare and o^{r} bulls fayled much

And whereas you were pleased to expresse that you saw not yr selfe ingaged for [th]e keeping of the children: there is noe ingagments by mee yr selfe knoweth how the Couenant Runneth: if mr Skeltons will bee disanulld wch is the ground of my ingagement: I beseech you then consider vpon whom shall it ly: now since I haue seen the lords hand calling mee to this busines I haue had triall euery way both of vnderstanding and care how to order things for the best: thus knowing yr care and indeauour to please the lord in all things: I Rest leauing these to yr godly and wise consideration.

Yrs vnfeinedly to comand in the lord

ALICE DANIELL:

[Addressed]
To The Right worspful
and worthily respectd
mr Jon Winthopp
senior these DD
Boston

[6. Paper No. 2.]

A Coppie of An Accompte of monies Mr Skelton is Creditor viz

			ł — s — d
An° 1629.	Inprimis ℔ so much wch should haue beene paid him in England towards fitting him for ye voyadg		20—00—0
	Item for Charges att Tilfbury, Cowes & Plimoth, being wind bound . .		02—10—0
	Item ꝑ Twenty ꝑ Annum for 3 years is ye some of		60—00—0
	Item for on bushell of wheat flower . . .	00—15— 0	
	It. for one bushell of oatmeale	00—10— 0	
	It. for one holland & 2 ordenary Cheess .	00—10— 0	
	It. for xxł of pouder suger att	01—03— 9	
	It. for one Loafe Cont. 7l at 1s 6d	00—10— 6	
	It. for one sug[a]r Loaf Cont 5ł a[t on]es 7d ꝑł	00—07—11	
	It. 6ł of pepper . . .	00—12—00	
	It. Nutmeggs. 4 ozs .	00—01— 8	
	Ite one oz of Clovs, & one oz of mace . .	00—02— 0	

	Itẽ. iij^{l} of Starch . .	00—01— 3		
	Itẽ. xij^{l} of Rice . .	00—06— 0		
	Itẽ. vi^{l} of vntryed suett	00—03— 0		
	Itẽ. one gall of aqua vites	00—03— 8		
	Itẽ. for on flitch of Bacon	00—14— 0		
	Itẽ. Castle soape ix^{l} att 8^{d} p l	00—06— 0		
	Itẽ. frute viz Reasons Corrants & pruens	00—14— 0		
	Itẽ. Safron ij oz . .	00—05— 0		
	Itẽ. five qu of Stronge water	00—08— 0		
	Itẽ. Almonds ij^{l} att 1^{s} 2^{d}	00—02— 4		
	Itẽ. xv^{l} of tryed suett at 8^{d} p l	00—10— 0		
	Itẽ. one gall of Sallert oyle	00—06— 0		
	Itẽ. vj^{l} of Candls . .	00—03— 0		
	Itẽ. v geese & ix ducks	00—08— 0	St	09=03—1
An^{o} 1630 :	Itẽ. xij^{l} of Butter att .	00—08— 0		
	Itẽ. vj potte of Butter Cont vij^{l} p pott . .	01—08— 0		
	Itẽ. ij Cheeses about x^{l} a ps	00—11— 8		
	Itẽ. half a firkin of butter of Mr Gibbs . .	00—17— 6		
	Itẽ. one Third p^{r}t of a barrell of w^{t} biskett	00—10— 0		
	Itẽ. one pott of hony vij^{l} wa^{t} att . . .	00—07—10		
	Itẽ. one pott of butte^{r} att	00—03—00		
	Itẽ. x^{l} of Corrants att .	00—05—00		
	Itẽ. Bacon	00—10—00		
	Itẽ. one dozen of Candls	00—08—00		
	Itẽ. ij Cheeses att vj^{d} p l	00—11— 3		
	Itẽ iij Cheeses att vij^{d} p l	00—17— 9		
	Itẽ one porkett [a pig]	01—05— 0		

Itẽ. xij[l] of tryed suett	00—08— 0	
Itẽ. vj gees & xij ducks	00—14— 0	
Itẽ. vj po: of powder suger about 20[d] . .	00—10— 0	
Itẽ. v po: of powder suger. 18[d]	00—07— 6	
Itẽ. x[l] of Loaf suger .	01—00— 0	
Itẽ. Cloves & mace .	00—01— 0	
Itẽ. ij oz of Nutmeggs j[s] & sinamõ 16[d] . .	00—02— 4	St — 11—05—10
Itẽ. workmens wadges for Cutting & bringing home wood ageanst winter about		ł — 03—00—00
Suma to[lis]		ł = 105=18=11

M[r] Skelton is Cr: viz.

			ł s d
Item p so much pd M[r] Pearce for provisions of meale, pease, Canvas Carsey & elce wth 3[l] 5[s] 9[d] Aduetu[r] after 25[l] p Cent. & freight I say pd the some of			12—15— 1
Itẽ. for 3 quarts of aquavites . . .			00—03— 9
Itẽ. for x[l] of Rice att 5[d]			00—04— 2
	ł s d		
Itẽ. 10[l] of Butt[er] att.	ł 0—06 8		
Itẽ. 4 Chees[es a]tt . .	ł 1—03—4		
Itẽ. 10 peecs of pork .	ł 0—11—8		
Itẽ. more 20[l] of Bu[tte]r	ł 0—10—0	ł	05—11— 8
Itẽ. more 4 bushells Virginia Corne . . .	2—00—0		
[Item] soape 7[s] & Vinege[r] 4 gałł 8[s] & 1g[l] 2[s]	0—17—0		
[Item] 2 pecks of w[t] salte att	0—03—0		
Sum is . . .			18—14— 8
And on the other syde the totałł some of			105—18—11
Suma to[lis]			— 124=13= 7

Now de Increase.

The first yeare next after the receipte of the 2 heiffers, both the Calues miscaried, one about a quarter ould dyed, the other neare vpon a yeare ould Lost by the woolvs.

The second yeare there was a heiffer Calfe and a bułł Calfe, wch heiffer is now in my hands And the Bull Calfe Mr Skelton sould att one ye^r^ and three quarters ould for eight pounds.

The Therd yeare was [two b]ułł Calues which the begining of winter weare both eaten with the woolvs

Now since the Three foresaid years, the next yeare after was Twoe bułł Calvs, and an heiffer Calfe, the springe before Mr Skeltons death.

And This yeare since was Three bull Calues Twoe wherof are dead, the one when it was about Twenty & twoe weeks ould, the other since winter did begin, Now for the keeping of the Catle wch should haue beene att the Companyes Chardge, hath wholly lyen vpon vs.

Mr Skeltons accompt Mr Skelton is Dor — viz
wth the Companie

	ł — s — d
℔ 14 yards of dutch serge Rec^d^ att	2 . 05 . 9
It. 17 yards of ffustian att . .	1—07— 0
It. 11 yards of w^t^ English ieans	0 . 13 . 9
It. 12 yards of Red ppetuana	1—16 . 0
It. 12 yards of Greene say .	1 . 13 . 0
It. 12 yards of y[e]llow say .	1—13 . 0
It. 12 elns of b[ ]eu [ ]men .	0 . 14— 0
It. 14 elns Course [ ]lland	1 . 17— 4
It. 2[0] elns o[f Lockc]rum .	1—05—10
It. 2[ ] stript [ ]s[ ] woolsey	1—09— 4
It. [ ] ya[ ] buck [ ]n .	0 . 05— 3

	It. one peece of Noridg serge	[ ]–15— 0	
quere if not twice entred	It. 20 elns of Lockcrum . .	1 . 05—10	
	It. 15 yards of wt fflannell .	0—15—00	[l] — s — d
	It. 20 elns of Course Canvas .	1 . 04–[ ]	St 02=12= 7
	It. one pound of whalbone .	0 [ ]	

Item p so much pd p Mr Renell prt of Mr Pearce his bill, the some of	08=00= 0

	l — s — d	l — s — d
Item p 9l of iron att 3d is	0—02—3	02—01— 2
It. p one syth	0—03 . 0	
It. p one fishing line . .	0—03—0	
It p 30 pound ocum . .	0 . 07 . 6	
It p 2000 Nails 6d p C .	0—10 . 0	
It p 660 Nails 10d p C .	0—05 . 5	
It p 1 Reame of pap . .	0—10—0	

Item borowed of Cp. Endicot of ye Comps		
7 yrds of bays att 2s 6d p yd is . .	00—17— 6	
halfe a elne of ffustian att . . .	00—00—10	
It. 2 yards & half of yellow Carsey 3s 4d	00—08— 4	St 03=07=10
	Suma tolis st	— 031—19 . 5

Itē. 2 gall of Metheglen — 8s		0[ ]–08— 0

Itē.	3 yrds of Cambricke	It. one lethe Jack	[ ] 01—06
	6 yrd & a ha of loome-work	It two Tubbs	
	2 drinking hornes.	It one wooden hand boule	
	8 pr of shoes for men	Itē. vineger	
	6 pr of gray Stokings for men	It 3 peuter botls quarts	00 03—06
	6 pr of Stockings for women	It one pinte peuter botle	00—00—00
rec of Mr Winthrop Governr	6 pr of Stockings for Children	Itē. one hatt	00—10— 0
	10 yrds of Carsey		33—03—03
	Thred		
	2000 of pinnes		
	6 Alls		
	one webb of blew gartering		
	2 knots of Tape		

[6. Paper No. 1.]

The following letter has no connection with the preceding papers: —

I make bould to put your wo^{r} in mynd accordinge as your self bid me, that thee promist as I conceive that was made by the mouth of one maiesstrat was agreed by all, that I should have a sufficient portion of money laid downe to bey me a howse and a lott soe that I would be willinge to come into the Bay to improve those giftes that God had lent mee, for which end he had lent me them, for the glorye of God and good of others, I redylie to answare soe reasonabell a request as I conceivye it was, did forthwith leave howse and lott and my swine and goots which through Gods blessinge I might have had good proffitt of them by this time in one month after I was come into the Bay I lost 22 piggs and Shotts as I cane esely make yt appeer for want of lookinge vnto them, I doe here testifie my willingnes and redines here to staye and to improve those giftes God hath lent me to the good of others, our honore^{d} late Gou^{r} m^{r} winthrop can testifie my care I humbly desier that things may come to an Issue

yours in the Lord in what I maye

ALLES BLOWER

[Addressed]
To the honored Gou^{r}
m^{r} Dudley

[32.]